

Appl. No. 09/849,049
Amdt. Dated February 13, 2007
Reply to Office action of August 16, 2006

REMARKS

There are seventeen (17) claims pending in the present application. The examiner alleges that the pending claims belong to four inventions that are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. More specifically, claims 1-7 form Group I; claims 8-11 from Group II; claims 12-16 form Group III; and claim 17 forms Group IV. Therefore, the examiner requires an election of one Group for further prosecution.

Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement because all claims could be examined as a whole without incurring extra-burdens upon the examiner. However, as required by the law, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Group I defined by claims 1-7.

Respectfully submitted,

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